

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-21 stand rejected by the Examiner.

In this response, claims 1-3, 6, 8-9, 12-13, 15, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102Rejections under 35 U.S.C Sec. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simpson (U.S. Pat. No. 4,272,662).

Claim 1 as amended reads as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for a conductive contact comprising:  
a housing having a hollow core with a longitudinal axis;  
a dielectric actuator *for initiating contact with a portable device*, wherein the dielectric actuator is disposed in part within the hollow core and capable of movement within the core along the axis; and  
a spring contact coupled to the dielectric actuator, wherein the spring contact is capable of compression and decompression along the longitudinal axis based on movement of the dielectric actuator.

Claim 1 teaches an apparatus for a conductive contact with both a dielectric actuator and a spring contact. The dielectric actuator initiates contact with a portable device. Initiation of contact by the actuator is described, for example, in the specification at paragraphs 32 and 33.

The spring contact is capable of compression and decompression along the longitudinal axis based on movement of the dielectric actuator.

Simpson does not teach or suggest a dielectric actuator for initiating contact with a portable device. Rather, Simpson teaches a contact (40) and dielectric actuator tip (136) used in a push button switch (see Simpson Figure 8). The contact (40) is pivoted about terminal 17 to connect to either terminal 19 or terminal 18 in response to the dielectric actuator tip 136 of plunger 120. (See Simpson Column 7, Lines 40-59). Dielectric actuator tip (136) does not initiate contact with a portable device.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Simpson does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 5, 6, and 8

Claims 2-3, 5, 6, and 8 are dependent on claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5, 6, and 8 are patentable over Simpson at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-3, 5, 6, and 8.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C Sec. 103(a)

Claims 4, 7, and 9-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson (US 4,272,662).

Claim 4:

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 2. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4.

Claim 7:

Claim 7 is dependent on claim 1. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7.

Claim 9 as amended reads as follows:

9. (currently amended) A headset charging base comprising:  
a body, wherein the body comprises a cradle having a cradle well for receiving a headset;  
a charging base conductive contact apparatus coupled to the body, wherein the charging base conductive contact apparatus comprises:  
a hollow inner cylindrical core with a longitudinal axis;  
*a dielectric actuator for initiating contact with the headset*, wherein the dielectric actuator is capable of movement within the cylindrical core along the axis; and  
a spring contact disposed in part within the hollow inner cylindrical core and coupled to the dielectric actuator, wherein the spring contact is capable of compression and decompression along the longitudinal axis based on movement of the dielectric actuator,  
wherein the headset is properly guided by the cradle when the headset is inserted into the cradle such that conductive contacts disposed on the headset are aligned with the spring contact of the charging base conductive contact apparatus.

Claim 9 as amended teaches a headset charging base with both a dielectric actuator and a spring contact. The dielectric actuator initiates contact with a portable device. Friction between the base charging contacts and the headset body is thereby reduced. Initiation of contact by the actuator is described, for example, in the specification at paragraphs 32 and 33. The spring contact is capable of compression and decompression along the longitudinal axis based on movement of the dielectric actuator.

Simpson does not teach or suggest a dielectric actuator for initiating contact with a portable device. A dielectric actuator for initiating contact with a portable device is not obvious from the teachings of Simpson. The field of invention taught by Simpson, switches, is different than that of the field of invention of claim 9, charging bases and headsets. Simpson does not

address the problem of friction between the base charging contacts and the headset. The problem that Simpson addresses is the size of the switch (See Simpson, Col. 1, lines 15-20; Col. 2, lines 1-8 and 17-19.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is not obvious in view of Simpson and therefore patentable over Simpson. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9.

Claims 10-17:

Claims 10-17 are dependent on claim 9. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-17 are patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-17.

Claim 18 reads as follows:

18. (original) A method for coupling base station charging contacts located at a headset charging base to headset charging contacts disposed on a headset body, the method comprising:  
providing an actuator at the base station charging contact;  
*contacting the headset body with the actuator during coupling,* wherein the actuator lifts the base station charging contacts in a direction away from the headset body during coupling such that friction between the base charging contacts and the headset body is reduced;  
releasing the base station charging contacts in a direction towards the headset body to mate the base station charging contacts with the headset charging contacts when the headset charging contacts are properly positioned.

Claim 18 teaches a method for coupling base station charging contacts located at a headset charging base to headset charging contacts disposed on a headset body. During coupling, the actuator contacts the headset body and lifts the base station charging contacts in a direction away from the headset body. Friction between the base charging contacts and the headset body is thereby reduced. The base station charging contacts are released to contact the

headset charging contacts when the headset charging contacts are properly positioned to complete the coupling process. Support for claim 18 can be found, for example, in paragraphs 27, 32 and 33 of the specification.

Simpson does not teach or suggest an actuator which contacts the headset body during coupling. An actuator which contacts a headset body during coupling between base station contacts and headset charging contacts is not obvious in view of Simpson. The field of invention taught by Simpson, switches, is different than that of the field of invention of claim 18, coupling charging base contacts to headset contacts. Simpson does not address the problem of friction between the base charging contacts and the headset body. The problem that Simpson addresses is the size of the switch (See Simpson, Col. 1, lines 15-20; Col. 2, lines 1-8 and 17-19).

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is not obvious in view of Simpson. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18.

Claim 19:

Claim 19 is dependent on claim 18. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19.

Claim 20 as amended reads as follows:

20. A charging interface system between a charging base and a wireless headset comprising:  
a wireless headset charging interface disposed at a headset comprising  
a housing with a front surface, wherein the front surface includes a recessed area;  
and  
conductive contacts disposed on the front surface outside the recessed area,  
wherein the conductive contacts comprise a positive contact and a negative contact; and  
a charging base interface disposed at a charging base comprising  
a hollow inner core with a longitudinal axis;

a dielectric actuator disposed within the hollow inner core capable of movement within the inner core along the axis; and

a spring contact coupled to the dielectric actuator, wherein the spring contact is capable of compression and decompression along the longitudinal axis responsive to movement of the dielectric actuator, and wherein *the dielectric actuator extends into the recessed area when the charging base interface is coupled to the wireless headset charging interface.*

Claim 20 teaches a wireless headset charging interface and a charging base interface.

The charging base interface includes a dielectric actuator that extends into a recessed area of the wireless headset charging interface housing. The dielectric actuator extends into the recessed area of the charging base to provide a means for detenting the headset with the base station. See, for example, paragraphs 26 and 27 of the specification.

Simpson does not teach or suggest a dielectric actuator which extends into a recessed area of a wireless headset when the charging base interface is coupled to the wireless headset charging interface. Furthermore, a dielectric actuator which extends into a recessed area of a wireless headset when the charging base interface is coupled to the wireless headset charging interface is not obvious in view of Simpson. The field of invention taught by Simpson, switches, is different than that of the field of invention of claim 20, coupling between two devices (e.g., a charging base and a wireless headset). As a result, Simpson does not address the problem of how to detent a charging base and a wireless headset. The problem that Simpson addresses is the size of the switch (See Simpson, Col. 1, lines 15-20; Col. 2, lines 1-8 and 17-19).

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is not obvious in view of Simpson. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20.

Claim 21

Claim 21 is dependent on claim 20. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is patentable over Simpson at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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